EPA's New Accountability Measure for TMDLs and TMDL Alternatives

Why now?
Most states have completed their TMDL lawsuit/settlement agreement requirements. EPA is accountable to OMB and Congress to show that the Clean Water Act is being implemented. States are willing to be accountable but need some flexibility. No one liked the old pace measure (certain number of TMDLs produced in a specific amount of time). States and EPA worked on this together.

What is it?
States will designate priority areas in which they will work to produce TMDLs and/or TMDL alternatives. Although EPA will ask for progress updates annually, the grand assessment of accomplishments will occur in 2022. The goal is to have "plans in place" for all priority waters by 2022.

EPA will assess progress using two measures:
WQ 27—tracks "plans in place" to address the long-term priorities of states.
WQ 28—tracks "plans in place" and progress towards "plans in place" within and outside of priorities.

Two things to note about the measures are that they overlap and that they are only designed to measure plans, not implementation. The TMDL alternatives that EPA has in mind include placement into Category 4b and placement into some other categories that Washington doesn't use, such as 5m (which some states use for mercury listings) and 5alt (which we may be able to use for our STI projects when the workplan is completed and approved but implementation has not proceeded far enough to result in placement into Category 4b).

What do states have to do?
States must designate their priority areas and describe what work has already been done in those areas to establish a baseline from which EPA will measure future accomplishments.

As part of the TMDL workload assessment that we do each time a new Water Quality Assessment is issued, the regions have also proposed the projects they expect to complete by 2022. In general, these are projects that are already underway, since 2022 is not that far off, and any projects not started at this time have less chance of being completed by then. We have assumed that these projects define our priority areas at the present time.

PMT should discuss the list of projects and decide whether they agree that these define our priority areas for the EPA accountability measures.

Proposed priorities

Region	Project name	Parameter	# Beans	Start date	Completion date	Progress to date
SWRO	Deschutes River Multiparameter TMDL	bacteria, pH, DO, temp, fine sediment	73	2003	~~2016~~ EPA should enter the date	~~TMDL drafted, public comment period ended, responding to comments and finalizing to submit to EPA~~Ecology completed the TMDL and submitted to EPA for approval in 2015
	Lower white River pH TMDL	pH	3	1990	~~2017~~EPA and Ecology should jointly propose a date	Data collected, modeling in progress
	~~Cranberry, Johns, and Mill Creeks temperature TMDL~~	~~temperature~~	~~14~~	~~2008~~	~~2017~~	~~Modeling done, writing draft for public comment~~
	Burnt Bridge Creek Watershed Multiparameter TMDL	bacteria, pH, temperature, DO	20	2008	2020~~18~~	Data collected, modeling ~~on hold – waiting for new EAP staff~~resumes after EF Lewis project is completed.
	East Fork Lewis River Watershed Multiparameter ~~TMDL~~	temperature, bacteria	34	2005	2019	Data collected (with follow-up bacteria sampling),

Commented [KA(1]: The three-party work group drafting the TMDL (EPA, Ecology, and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe) has been unable to make timely progress on this TMDL. Ecology and EPA will need to coordinate their efforts to meet any deadline.

Commented [KA(2]: Ecology continues to pursue this project as a lower priority. Given our focus on nonpoint implementation, preparation of this plan has slipped on the schedule.

Commented [KA(3]: This project is now a TMDL Alternative

Commented [KA(4]: This project is now a TMDL Alternative

Region	Project name	Parameter	# Beans	Start date	Completion date	Progress to date
						report writing in progress. ~~modeling on hold – waiting for new EAP staff~~
	~~Lacamas Creek Watershed Multiparameter TMDL~~	~~temperature, DO, bacteria, pH~~	~~31~~	~~2010~~	~~2020~~	~~Data collected, modeling not started yet~~
	~~Weaver Creek~~	~~bacteria~~	~~1~~	~~2016~~	~~2019~~	~~Planning to do an implementation project~~

Commented [KA(5]: Lacamas Creek is still in the queue, but is behind at least two other projects. Given slips in schedules, we can no longer be assured of completing this project by the WQ 27 schedule.

Commented [KA(6]: The Weaver Creek project is a focused implementation effort, and is a component of the Skokomish bacteria TMDL. As a stand-alone effort, it does not meet all of EPA's elements of an "alternative restoration approach". It is an important piece of protection shellfish harvesting and implementing a TMDL, but is not a good fit for this exercise.

Region	Project name	Parameter	# Beans	Start date	Completion date	Progress to date
NWRO	Padilla Bay Fecal Coliform TMDL	bacteria	9	2015	~~2017~~2019	~~Just starting, have contacted stakeholders~~Field work completed, EAP doing data QA, modeling, drafting tech rpt
	Sammamish River Temperature TMDL/DO TMDL	temperature, DO	10	2015	2020~~18~~	~~Collecting data~~Awaiting modeler & info on nat. cond. changes. Current completion date assumes 1.5 years to complete modeling and groundwater analysis with FY 19 start date.
	Soos Creek Temperature, DO, Aquatic Habitat TMDL	temperature, DO, biological indicators	19	2014	2022~~16~~	~~Data collected, developing model~~QAPP revision by winter 2017, adding HSPF modeling for pilot bioassessment work.
	Green-Duwamish Toxics Loading Assessment	multiple toxic pollutants	350	?	?	Data collected, developing modelModeler hired fall 2017. Need to work with EPA to determine if this should stay in WQ27.
	~~Newaukum Creek Fecal Coliform TMDL~~	~~bacteria~~	~~7~~	~~2015~~	~~2016~~	TMDL drafted but needs

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						technical revisions
	~~Soos Creek Fecal Coliform TMDL~~	~~bacteria~~	~~12~~	~~2015~~	~~2016~~	Data collected but is getting old.
	~~French/~~Pilchuck Temperature and DO TMDL	temperature, DO	~~37~~?	2016	2019~~9~~	~~Data collected~~Draft technical report 7/2017, correcting Tetra Tech errors fall 2017, anticipate advisory committee will start in 2018.
	French Creek Temperature and DO TMDL	Temp/DO	?		2020	Data collected, modeling starts fall 2017. In extended project planning fall 2017 due to natural conditions. Anticipate completing a TMDL at this time, but TMDL alternative is possible.
	~~Lake Loma STI~~	~~phosphorus~~	~~1~~	~~2014~~	~~2015~~	~~Being implemented, STI workplan in progress~~
	~~Minter Creek Fecal Coliform STI~~	~~bacteria~~	~~4~~	~~2016~~	~~2017~~	~~Planning~~
	~~Big Beef Temperature/DO TMDL~~	~~temperature, DO~~	~~5~~	~~2017~~	~~2019~~	~~Planning~~
	~~Tahuya River Temperature/DO TMDL~~	~~temperature, DO~~	~~4~~	~~2018~~	~~2020~~	~~Planning~~
	~~Lower Skagit pH/DO TMDL~~	~~pH, DO~~	~~24~~	~~2020~~	~~2022~~	~~Planning~~

Commented [BH(7]: Remove from list due to lack of resources to properly complete the work before anticipated change in recreational criteria.

Commented [BH(8]: Remove from list due to lack of resources to properly complete the work before anticipated change in recreational criteria.

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Commented [BH(9]: Inadequate resources to complete.

Commented [BH(10]:

Region	Project name	Parameter	# Beans	Start date	Completion date	Progress to date
NWRO	~~South Whidbey Island Fecal Coliform/DO/pH TMDL~~	~~bacteria, DO, pH~~	~~24~~	~~2018~~	~~2021~~	~~Planning~~
	~~Quilceda/Allen DO/pH TMDL~~	~~DO, pH~~	~~9~~	~~2019~~	~~2022~~	~~Planning~~
	~~Juanita Creek Fecal Coliform TMDL~~	~~bacteria~~	~~11~~	~~2016~~	~~2018~~	~~Planning~~
	~~South Lake Sammamish Tributaries Fecal Coliform TMDL~~	~~bacteria~~	~~4~~	~~2018~~	~~2020~~	~~Planning~~
	~~Sammamish River and Tributaries Fecal Coliform TMDL~~	~~bacteria~~	~~19~~	~~2020~~	~~2022~~	~~Planning~~
	~~Lake Ketchum STI~~	~~phosphorus~~	~~1~~	~~2016~~	~~2017~~	~~Planning~~
	~~Scriber Lake STI~~	~~phosphorus~~	~~1~~	~~2017~~	~~2018~~	~~Planning~~
	~~Sunday Lake STI~~	~~phosphorus~~	~~1~~	~~2019~~	~~2020~~	~~Planning~~
	~~Lake Union STI~~	~~phosphorus~~	~~1~~	~~2020~~	~~2022~~	~~Planning~~

Commented [BH(11]: Inadequate resources to complete. Investigating local effort to complete through 4B process. Also need to verify accuracy of many of the Category 5 listings.

Commented [BH(12]: Inadequate resources to complete. Stakeholder support not documented.

Commented [BH(13]: Inadequate resources to complete.

Commented [BH(14]: Inadequate resources to complete.

Commented [BH(15]: Inadequate resources to complete.

Commented [BH(16]: Inadequate resources to complete. Implementation already under way by Snohomish County.

Commented [BH(17]: Inadequate resources to complete.

Commented [BH(18]: Inadequate resources to complete.

Commented [BH(19]: Inadequate resources to complete.

Region	Project name	Parameter	# Beans	Start date	Completion date	Progress to date
ERO	Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force	PCB; 2,3,7,8-TCDD; 2.3.7.8-TCDD TEQ	24	2012	2027	Task force identifying sources, fate, and transport of PCBs; performing data collection; implementing PCB removal and source control BMPs
	Little Spokane River DO/pH TMDL	DO, pH, temperature	35	2012	~~2017~~2018	Model built, doing additional data collection
	South Fork Palouse Multi-parameter TMDL	temperature, DO, pH	34	2006	~~2018~~2020	Data collected, model run, may need UAA
	Hangman Creek DO/pH TMDL	DO, pH, temperature	21	2015~~7~~	2020	Data gathered, model has been run, policy issues related to intermittent streams delaying project
	~~Pataha Creek TMDL~~	~~bacteria, DO, pH~~	~~15~~	~~2017~~	~~2022~~	~~Planning~~
	Pend Oreille River	temperature	24	2004	2018	Waiting for EPA approval

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Commented [BH(20]: Comment from Dave Knight: 2016? It isn't currently a TMDL. EAP and WQ re-scoped the project b/c it was too big. We settled on 3 individual projects that may someday be a part of a TMDL. How should we record this development for WQ 27? Take it off the list?

Commented [BH(21]: Comment from Dave Knight: Was not staffed in last year's planning process. If we re-propose this year, it would not start until 2018 (simple) or 2109 (complex).

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Region	Project name	Parameter	# Beans	Start date	Completion date	Progress to date
CRO	~~Mid-Yakima Basin Temperature TMDL~~	~~temperature~~	~~25~~	~~?~~	~~2016~~	~~TMDL drafted for public review~~
	Upper Yakima Tributaries Temperature TMDL	temperature	32	2013	2016 Approved by EPA, December 2016	~~Data collected, found some monitoring issues, also water right and fish passage issues, TMDL being drafted~~
	~~Tieton and Lower Naches Temperature TMDL~~	~~temperature~~	~~12~~	~~?~~	~~2018~~	~~Monitoring just started~~
	Wide Hollow Creek Multi-parameter ~~Temperature~~ TMDL	temperature	3	?	202~~0~~2	Monitoring complete, social/political issues, may need UAA
	~~Wide Hollow Creek DO/pH~~	~~DO, pH~~	~~4~~	~~?~~	~~2020~~	~~Monitoring complete, social/political issues, may need UAA~~
	~~Cowiche Creek DO/pH TMDL~~	~~DO, pH~~	~~5~~	~~2018~~	~~2020~~	~~Re-modeling using different shade model~~
	Lower Yakima Basin Temperature TMDL	temperature	8	2014	2022	Planning. Existing data being collected and reviewed For model.

Commented [PMF(22]: This project was for tributaries and was broken apart and became separate water cleanup projects projects for Wide Hollow, Moxee drain.

Commented [PMF(23]: Project set aside at this time due to the lack of available resources and staff time. Monitoring will be captured an a technical report

Commented [PMF(24]: Awaiting technical report completion. This is now a multiparameter TMDL

Commented [PMF(25]: This project has been combined with the temperature TMDL. There will likely be a need for recognizing natural conditions

Commented [PMF(26]: Insufficient resources available to begin this TMDL

Region	Project name	Parameter	# Beans	Start date	Completion date	Progress to date
~~CRO~~	~~Lower Yakima Basin DO/pH TMDL~~	~~DO, pH~~	~~40~~	~~?~~	~~2022~~	~~Planning~~
	~~Okanogan River Basin pH TMDL~~	~~pH~~	~~20~~	~~?~~	~~2019~~	~~Reviewing data that resulted in original listings~~
	~~Moxee Drain Temperature STI~~	~~temperature~~	~~11~~	~~?~~	~~2016~~	~~Working with irrigators to implement BMPs, no workplan~~
	~~Myron Lake Ammonia Verification Study~~	~~ammonia~~	~~1~~	~~?~~	~~2016~~	~~Resampling to verify impairment~~
	~~Swale Creek Temperature~~	~~temperature~~	~~3~~	~~?~~	~~2016~~	~~May be a natural condition~~
	~~Rock Creek Temperature and DO~~	~~Temperature, DO~~	~~7~~	~~?~~	~~2016~~	~~BMPs implemented, may be a natural condition~~

Commented [PMF(27]: This project for lower Yakima River tributaries will not proceed a tthis time, lack of available resources and staff time

Commented [PMF(28]: 2016 report on pH listings show a TMDL should be a low priority

Commented [PMF(29]: This project is a non-TMDL project and is continueing to develop

Commented [PMF(30]: This project is a non-TMDL project and is continueing to develop

Commented [PMF(31]: Rock and Swale Creeks have been lowered in priority in the region, and pulled from active projects

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Region	Project name	Parameter	# Beans	Start date	Completion date	Progress to date
BFO	South Fork Nooksack Temperature TMDL	temperature	22	2012	20186	Modeling complete, TMDL being drafted, natural conditions issue
	Drayton Harbor Bacteria TMDL	bacteria	17	2008	Dec. 20187	Data collected, modeling finished, may need to re-analyze new data
	Whatcom Creek Fecal Coliform TMDL	bacteria	8	2001	20197	Data collected, Bellingham implementing
	Squalicum Creek Pilot TMDL	bacteria	6	2012	202316	Model being designed